

From: [Tougas, Stephanie](#)
To: [Stone, Marielle \(DEP\)](#)
Cc: [Child, Denise \(DEP\)](#); [Boyer, David \(DEP\)](#)
Subject: RE: RE: RE: Wetlands concern in Gardner, MA
Date: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 8:40:00 AM

Hi Marielle

Thank you very much for your call yesterday and the information you provided. Please keep EPA in the loop if you coordinate a site visit. We would like to possibly accompany you (pending COVID related protocols/approvals for inspections). Thank you again.

Stephanie Tougas
Water Enforcement Officer
EPA Region 1
617-918-1798

From: Stone, Marielle (DEP) <marielle.stone@state.ma.us>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 4:51 PM
To: Tougas, Stephanie <tougas.stephanie@epa.gov>
Cc: Child, Denise (DEP) <denise.child@state.ma.us>; Boyer, David (DEP) <david.boyer@state.ma.us>
Subject: RE: RE: RE: Wetlands concern in Gardner, MA

Hi Stephanie,

MassDEP has been in contact with the City of Gardner regarding this matter and would like to coordinate any inspections with EPA if possible. Due to the Covid-19 State of Emergency we have been limited in our ability to do inspections, but are going to try and work on setting one up. We will keep EPA updated on any inspections planned by MassDEP. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Thank you.

Marielle Stone
Deputy Regional Director
Bureau of Water Resources
MassDEP - Central Regional Office
Office: 508 767 2827
Cell: 508 713 3528

From: Tougas, Stephanie <tougas.stephanie@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 9:03 AM
To: Alan Rousseau <rousseaua@verizon.net>

Cc: 'PAUL DEMEO' <ryanrealty@comcast.net>; matthewmarro@gmail.com; Ivan Ussach (MRWC) <ivan@millersriver.net>; Stone, Marielle (DEP) <marielle.stone@mass.gov>; Tedder, Newton <Tedder.Newton@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: RE: RE: Wetlands concern in Gardner, MA

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Mr. Rousseau,

Thank you for your email. We received Mr. Demeo's concerns and are working on addressing the matter.

To make a FOIA request you can go to:

<https://foiaonline.gov/foiaonline/action/public/home>

Scroll down to "View Participating Agencies"

Then select "Environmental Protection Agency"

Click on "Submit a Request"

Stephanie Tougas
Water Enforcement Officer
EPA Region 1

From: Alan Rousseau <rousseaua@verizon.net>

Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 11:05 AM

To: Tougas, Stephanie <tougas.stephanie@epa.gov>

Cc: 'PAUL DEMEO' <ryanrealty@comcast.net>; matthewmarro@gmail.com; Ivan Ussach (MRWC) <ivan@millersriver.net>; Stone, Marielle (DEP) <marielle.stone@mass.gov>; Tedder, Newton <Tedder.Newton@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: RE: RE: Wetlands concern in Gardner, MA

Importance: High

Hi Stephanie,

I am the property abutter to the south of the Gardner Sludge Landfill and am very concerned about the discharge from the two culverts at this site into the wetland area south of the landfill. Mr. DeMeo has submitted a tip to the US EPA regarding one of the culverts on the southwest corner of the landfill. A portion of this large wetland is on City of Gardner property and a portion is on my property. The City of Gardner has been operating the Sludge Landfill under a Vertical Expansion

Permit since 2/3/16 because this landfill was determined to be at capacity in 2013.

I very much appreciate your investigation, on behalf of the US EPA, of the tip submitted by Mr. DeMeo. I request the following:

1. Soil and water samples be taken and analyzed by the US EPA at the exit point of both culverts and the northern area of the wetland.
2. As a FOIA request, all correspondence (emails, letters, text messages, meeting notes) on this matter that have occurred to date.

Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

My Best Regards and Thanks,
Alan

Alan N. Rousseau
211 Betty Spring Road
Gardner, MA 01440

(H) 978-632-0618
(C) 978-618-5755

From: PAUL DEMEO <ryanrealty@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 4:45 PM
To: Scott Graves <sgraveslawoffice37@gmail.com>; Ed Gravel <egravel2018@gmail.com>; Alan Rousseau <rousseaua@verizon.net>; matthewmarro@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: RE: RE: Wetlands concern in Gardner, MA

----- Original Message -----

From: "Tougas, Stephanie" <tougas.stephanie@epa.gov>
To: PAUL DEMEO <ryanrealty@comcast.net>
Date: May 20, 2020 at 4:24 PM
Subject: RE: RE: Wetlands concern in Gardner, MA

Hello Mr. Demeo,

Thank you for the additional information. We are actively looking into this matter and are following up with the facility and local officials. We take the concerns you raise seriously, and will determine appropriate next steps after we discuss the matter with the facility and town.

Best

Stephanie Tougas

Water Enforcement Officer

EPA Region 1

From: PAUL DEMEO <ryanrealty@comcast.net>

Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 8:12 PM

To: Tougas, Stephanie <tougas.stephanie@epa.gov>; Tedder, Newton <Tedder.Newton@epa.gov>; dep.waterways@mass.gov

Cc: Scott Graves <sgraveslawoffice37@gmail.com>; Ed Gravel <egravel2018@gmail.com>; Alan <rousseaua@verizon.net>; matthewmarro@gmail.com; Marielle.Stone@mass.gov; spotlight@globe.com; lbutler@gardner-ma.gov; ryanrealty <ryanrealty@comcast.net>

Subject: RE: RE: Wetlands concern in Gardner, MA

Hello Stephanie.

I have not heard back from you in over a week as to the formal investigation I requested. A formal site visit needs to be done as requested by the EPA and Massachusetts DEP which has not taken place.

In these photos taken today with Alan Rousseau and Edward Gravel present. the photo shows the "[New Wetland Flagging](#)" showing the culvert storm-water dumping into a wetland, swamp, pond, and onto the Otter River, Miller's River, and Connecticut River.

Gardner's new conservation agent Lyndsy Butler disputed the fact of the culvert dumping sand, silt, and whatever else into a "wetland" but it is now quite apparent and what I all along believed, is a fragile wetland area.

This is a serious matter which needs to be addressed as to what

foreign materials are entering protected wetlands and waterways.

Does the City of Gardner have a storm-water permit? Is there an "order of conditions" and a DEP File #? Nobody seems to be able to answer these questions which is quite concerning.

I understand Lyndsy is trying to protect her job but she is "charged" with protecting wetlands and waterways. She should not be in fear of losing her job over doing the right thing. I have "no faith" in the Gardner Conservation Commission whatsoever.

The next step will be to contact the Boston News Stations and their investigative reporters.

Sand, silt, and unknown substances have now damaged a wetland area.

As you can see, the culvert pipe is nearly full. In addition, the emergency check dams put in place are failing and being breached.

I am again requesting a formal "site visit" take place as soon as possible and no work done on the site, until a formal engineering study is done to repair the damage done.

Looking forward to your reply. The abutting land owner Alan Rousseau, former city councilor Gravel, and present city councilor Graves have been copied on this e-mail.

Everything is now documented.

Regards,

Paul DeMeo

On May 12, 2020 at 4:46 PM "Tougas, Stephanie"
<tougas.stephanie@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Mr. Demeo, my apologies. EPA is in the process of determining if the facility requires an MSGP permit (Multi Sector General Permit) that covers stormwater discharges. If so, the permit requires them to maintain stormwater controls, among other things. The facility should be reaching out to our permit folks.

Best,

Stephanie Tougas

Water Enforcement Officer

EPA Region 1

From: PAUL DEMEO <ryanrealty@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 4:37 PM
To: Tougas, Stephanie <tougas.stephanie@epa.gov>
Cc: Alan <rousseaua@verizon.net>; ryanrealty <ryanrealty@comcast.net>; Tedder, Newton <Tedder.Newton@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: RE: Wetlands concern in Gardner, MA

Hi Stephanie,

I have not heard back from you relative to my complaint.

Best Regards,

Paul DeMeo

----- Original Message -----

From: PAUL DEMEO <ryanrealty@comcast.net>

To: "Tougas, Stephanie" <tougas.stephanie@epa.gov>

Date: May 5, 2020 at 11:08 PM

Subject: RE: Wetlands concern in Gardner, MA

Hi Stephanie,

Did you receive this okay?

Thanks for your assistance.

Paul DeMeo

On May 4, 2020 at 2:14 PM PAUL DEMEO
<ryanrealty@comcast.net> wrote:

Hello Stephanie,

It was nice chatting earlier today.

Attached are two identical GIS Maps showing the Gardner Sludge Landfill and the Rousseau Property with the three ponds showing and the extensive wetlands. GIS MAP was obtained from City of Gardner engineering website.

Circle in **red** is the approximate area of the discharge pipe into the wetland area.

I have attached a photo of the discharge pipe into the wetland and as you can see, it is pretty much filled with silt and debris. Who know what else is discharging from the "sewage sludge".

Anything else I can help with, please let me know.

Can we do water and soil sampling?

I would be happy to meet any EPA Official that is sent out to view the complaint.

Best Regards,

Paul DeMeo

On May 4, 2020 at 12:25 PM
"Tougas, Stephanie"
<tougas.stephanie@epa.gov>
wrote:

Hello thanks for the additional information but I am having trouble finding the exact location of the alleged discharge (cannot locate Rousseau Pond on a map) could you

From: PAUL DEMEO
<ryanrealty@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 11:53 AM
To: Tougas, Stephanie
<tougas.stephanie@epa.gov>
Cc: Alan
<rousseaua@verizon.net>;
ryanrealty
<ryanrealty@comcast.net>
Subject: Re: Wetlands concern in Gardner, MA

Hi Stephanie,

Route 68 Gardner behind
Wildwood Cemetery and the
Gardner Transfer Station.

Rousseau Pond being
endangered with Sewage
Sludge Landfill in the back.

This feeds into Otter River,
then Miller's River and onto
Connecticut River.

I do not believe this is
covered in Gardner's MS-4
storm water discharge
permit.

How else can I help?

Mr. Alan Rousseau has been
copied on this e-mail as he is
the landowner directly
affected.

Thanks!

Paul DeMeo

On May 4, 2020 at
10:46 AM "Tougas,
Stephanie"
<tougas.stephanie@epa.gov>

wrote:

Hello Mr. Demeo. I received the tip regarding the alleged wetlands violation by the landfill. I was wondering if you could provide me a bit more detail on the exact location so I can properly follow up on this? Thank you

Stephanie Tougas

Water Enforcement
Officer

EPA Region 1

617-918-1798